

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SECURING THE CONTENTS OF DATA
STORAGE DEVICES WITHIN A COMPUTER**

Abstract

Each data storage device that supports the standard security features and is
5 enabled with a security password may be locked when power is removed from the device.
When power is returned, a determination is made as to whether the data storage device is
locked and returning from a powered off state or a hardware reset. If locked, a password
may be received from a user. After the security password is received, the data storage
device is unlocked, allowing access to the data on the device. A setup utility is provided
10 for manipulating the security and backup passwords for each device. Other features
include: presenting locked devices to the operating system, the use of a backup password
to unlock a device in lieu of the security password, requiring or not requiring password
entry from a user to unlock a device when returning from a sleep state, setting maximum
or high security, an automatic hardware reset upon exiting the setup utility, and disabling
15 change password capabilities for devices without an enabled security password.